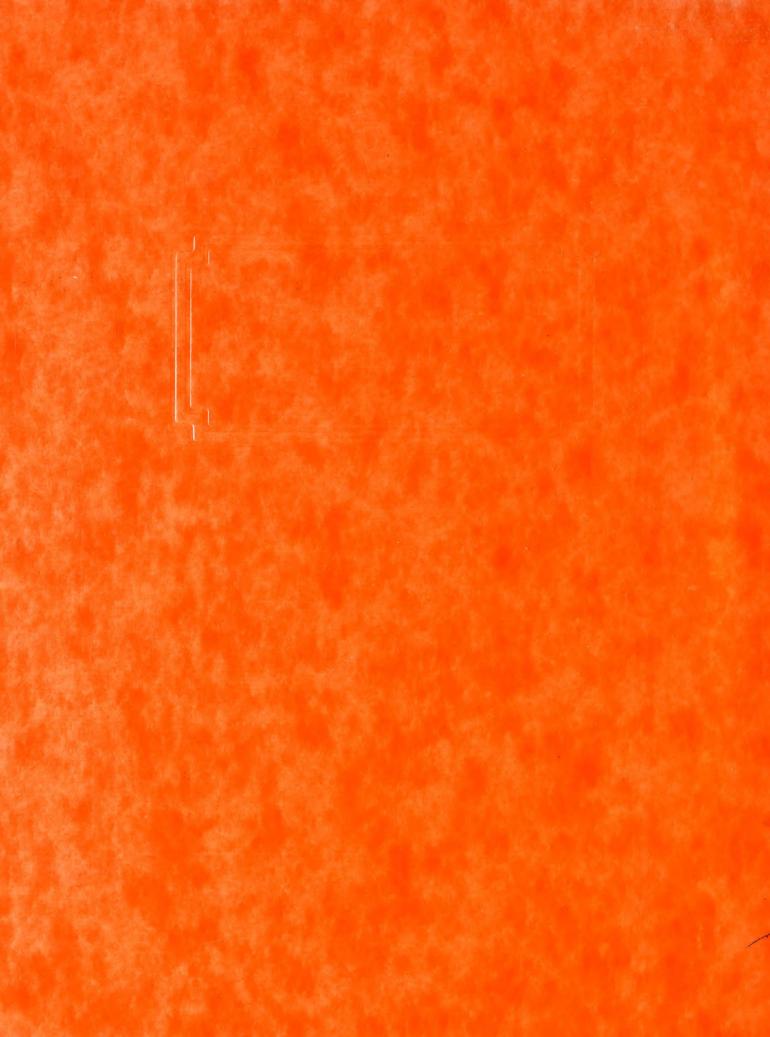


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JOINT COMMUNIQUE

CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF LABOUR

OTTAWA, APRIL 22-23, 1971



Canada's Labour Ministers today ended a two-day conference in Ottawa at which discussion focussed on recent and planned changes in labour law, approaches to minimum wage determination and measures to protect the rights of women in the labour force.

established in the different jurisdictions across
Canada and examined together a number of the factors
that have to be considered when minimum wage levels
are being set. They agreed that these factors differ
in varying degrees, from one jurisdiction to another.
They also agreed that there is need for more intensive
study by labour departments of the economic effects of
the minimum wage in particular industries and regions
and the relationship of the minumum wage to other
aspects of social policy.

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The Ministers discussed the need for improvements in laws affecting women in the labour force, including those designed to establish equal opportunity, equal pay for equal work and an entitlement to maternity leave. In the course of this discussion, they reviewed the relevant recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women and standards established by conventions of the International Labour Organization. Further federal-provincial consultation on the subject will take place as the current review of the Royal Commission recommendations proceeds.

The review of recent and planned changes in labour law covered a number of fields including industrial relations, labour standards and safety. A frank exchange of views provided an improved understanding of the rationale underlying policy developments in the different jurisdictions.

Because of their broad area of mutual interest and the increasing importance of responsibilities associated with the labour portfolio, the Ministers agreed that they should meet at more regular intervals, and that they should consider holding their next meeting outside Ottawa. They also gave full support to a continuation of regular meetings between their deputy ministers and other senior officials.

The conference was chaired by Federal
Labour Minister Bryce Mackasey and attended by
Ministers from seven provinces: Stephen A. Neary
of Newfoundland, Bruce Stewart of Prince Edward
Island, Jean Cournoyer of Québec, G.R. Carton of
Ontario, A.R. Paulley of Manitoba, D. MacLennan
of Saskatchewan and J.R. Chabot of British Columbia.
Labour Ministers Leonard Pace of Nova Scotia,
R.E. Logan of New Brunswick and R. Reierson of
Alberta were unable to attend but were represented
at the conference.

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